

MONTANA



WHERE FISHERMEN DON'T HAVE TO LIE

**Department of Fish and Game
Helena, Montana 59601**

NONRESIDENT FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSE FEES

| <u>License</u> | <u>Fees</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Conservation — prerequisite to fishing, bird, and to spring black bear licenses _____ | \$ 1.00 |
| Fishing - season _____ | 20.00 |
| Fishing - temporary (valid day issued & 5 days thereafter) _____ | 10.00 |
| Fishing - daily _____ | 2.00 |
| Bird _____ | 30.00 |
| Combination bird-fish (serves as prerequisite to big game licenses where required) _____ | 50.00 |
| Special Deer "A" (prerequisite required) each valid in several specified hunting districts _____ | 50.00 |
| Persons who hold the \$225.00 combination license may not apply for the special deer "A" licenses. | |
| Grizzly (prerequisite required) _____ | 125.00 |
| Grizzly trophy - any person who has killed a grizzly bear shall not be eligible to apply for another such license for the next succeeding seven (7) years. _____ | 25.00 |
| Black Bear (spring only) _____ | 36.00 |
| Black Bear (prerequisite required) _____ | 50.00 |
| Antelope (prerequisite required) _____ | 50.00 |
| Sheep (prerequisite required) _____ | 125.00 |
| Goat (prerequisite required) _____ | 75.00 |
| Moose (prerequisite required) _____ | 125.00 |
| Mountain Lion (prerequisite required) _____ | 25.00 |
| Big Game, bird and fish* _____ | 225.00 |

*The \$225.00 license contains an "A" deer tag, an elk tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting for game birds and fishing. (Serves as prerequisite where prerequisite is required.)

There are no separate elk licenses for nonresidents. Out-of-staters need the \$225.00 license in order to hunt elk. No more than 17,000 of the nonresident \$225.00 combination licenses may be issued during a license year. Montana's license year begins May 1 and runs through April 30 of the following year.

Most fishermen will agree that Montana is one of the best, if not the best, states for fishing. Though trout provide the featured action, there are a variety of other game species. The angler who has spent a week or so in the Big Sky Country soon finds some pet fishing spots. For the first-timer, though, there is always the problem of where to go.

Telling someone where they can go to catch fish in Montana is no trick, but picking the best fishing spots is something else. The way a person fishes, the kind of fishing he likes, current water conditions and the vagaries of the fish themselves are all ingredients to fishing success. For these reasons, any particular stream rated best by some fishermen may be rated lower by others.

The Department of Fish and Game would like to help you find your best fishing area but we are not going to aim you in one particular direction. Rather, we have listed several good possibilities. These are by no means all of the good fishing spots, but they have good potential and will serve as places to begin. Don't overlook the smaller tributaries unless you're strictly out for lunker-size fish. There are all kinds of small, brush-lined brooks and creeks that offer excellent fishing for the smaller "eating-size" trout that fit just right into a frying pan. For the big ones, you have to go to the lakes, streams or rivers.

APRIL

Often early thaws free the larger rivers of ice in April. Streams are still low, clear, and well suited to small dry flies. Imitation midge flies — gray, black and so-called snow flies — are best. It is a very pleasant way of working the winter kinks out of the casting arm. Bait fishing is also recommended.

MAY

Most lakes, reservoirs and rivers remain open to fishing the year around in Montana. The general season which throws open almost everything to fishing traditionally begins the third Saturday in May and ends November 30.

Winter dies hard in Montana and mountain areas are still heavily snowpacked during May. Roads and trails in most of the high country are generally impassible so fishing during the general opener is mostly limited to lowland streams and lakes.

Streams can be expected to be high and roily during May. The most productive tackle for trout in roily water is usually flashy hardware and bait while flies are effective in the clearer areas such as streams below reservoirs. Bait in a variety of forms is a consistent taker of fish regardless of the season. During the spring, natural baits are best for cutthroat and brown trout. Big Dollies are after medium to large spoons of brass, silver, or red and white. In many spots the rainbow in spawning areas will fall to wet streamer flies as well as to hardware.

Late May finds paddlefish running on the lower Yellowstone. The focal spot for these relic fish on the Yellowstone is just below Intake Dam, 20 miles downstream from Glendive. Most of the spring paddlefishing in the Missouri River is done near Kipp State Park not too far upstream from Fort Peck Reservoir or the Missouri paddlefish snagging gets started in early or late April and tapers off in late May. Since paddelfish do not take baited hooks, snagging with large treble hooks is the only method of capturing these fish which weigh over 100 pounds. Sauger and catfishing are excellent in the Missouri from the time ice goes out to mid-April. Catfishing picks up again in mid-June.

JUNE

June is often the wettest month in Montana. Spring rains and melting snow send streams brimming over their banks. Much of the fishing at high water is concentrated on lakes and below reservoirs where silt has settled out and the water is clearer. High lakes are still frozen over, and access is usually poor because of muddy or snow-clogged roads and trails.

Again, bait is productive as are spoons and lures. Wet flies come into play as the water begins to clear. The big salmon flies that drive

trout out of their minds begin to show up on the lower Madison and Big Hole Rivers, Gallatin, Upper Big Blackfoot and Rock Creek (Granite County) in early June. The exact time of hatching is determined mostly by water temperatures. Hatches begin in the lower, warmer areas and progress gradually upstream. Dolly Varden (bull trout) are usually hitting on the forks of the Flathead late June and early July.

JULY

By late June and early July the heavy runoff subsides. Streams drop and begin to clear. This is an ideal time for float-type fishing. Later in the season as water lowers, shoal areas and gravel bars make floating difficult on the smaller rivers.

As July progresses, waters clear and the dry fly fishermen come into their own. Popular dry flies include the Sofa Pillow (during salmon fly hatch), Royal Coachman, Ginger Quill, Cahill, Goofus Bug, Black Gnat and Gray Hackle. The most talked about wet flies are probably Muddlers, Wooly Worms and the Mite family.

Many of the high lakes are ice-free and access gets better as snow recedes. Streams generally hit the peak of condition for trout summer fishing in July.

AUGUST

Streams become lower and warmer as August progresses. This is due to a combination of warmer weather, less precipitation, and heavier water use. As streams lower and become warmed, the most productive fishing is with dry flies during early morning and late evening. When the grasshopper season comes on, trout may be fooled by floating a hopper around a bend or under some shaded bank. A fly-hopper combination makes an odd looking, but often irresistible morsel. Warm water in lakes and reservoirs will send trout down to find cooler levels, so fishermen will have to send their tackle a little deeper too.

For people who want to get away from it all, the mountains offer lush, cool solitude. Trout in mountain lakes are temperamental

so fishermen may have to use a full bag of tricks to take them. Maybe they won't hit at all, or maybe something as simple as an angleworm will prove irresistible.

SEPTEMBER

Montana in September is really very beautiful. With the first killing frosts, broadleaf trees and bushes burst into a wild array of colors. Streams are quite often at a seasonal low early in the month, but shorter days and cool nights bring water temperatures down and fishing improves. The fall spawners are beginning to move into their spawning haunts and some of them are beginning to color. By late September, fishing is usually excellent.

WHERE TO CATCH 'EM

Montana's vast and beautiful outdoors provides fishing in abundance, not only in quality but also in variety of fish. Following are brief descriptions of the major watersheds of the state and of the species of fish which are likely to be found therein.

Montana is traversed by four major streams — the Yellowstone, Missouri, Kootenai and Clark's Fork of the Columbia. These streams with their many tributaries and hundreds of connected lakes, offer to the angling enthusiast a diversity of fishing that can be found in few other places in the United States. Be sure to check current fishing regulations.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER

The Yellowstone River watershed offers such a variety of fishing that it would take many pages to describe all of its waters in detail. The headwaters of this river are in Yellowstone National Park and it flows through Montana in a northeasterly course until it crosses the boundary line between Montana's Richland County and North Dakota. It joins the Missouri River a few miles after crossing into North Dakota. In many of its headwater streams, especially those originating in Yellowstone Park and the Beartooth Mountains, the fisherman will find splendid *cutthroat trout* trout fishing.

As the Yellowstone flows down into Park, Sweetgrass and Stillwater Counties, the *rainbow* and *brown trout* reign supreme and a number of prize specimens of these species have been taken from this stretch of the river. It might also be mentioned here that he who prefers the art of *white-fishing* will have no trouble in indulging in this sport to his heart's content, as long as he remains in any of the waters within the three counties mentioned above.

By the time the Yellowstone River has reached Yellowstone County, it is biologically a much different stream than it was when it left Yellowstone Park. Improvements in water quality are gradually extending the *brown trout* fishery downstream so that catches are becoming more numerous in the river as far downstream as the mouth of the Big Horn River. During the summer months, prevailing temperatures of the lower Yellowstone are relatively high and this area provides good warm water fishing. Chief among these are the *sauger*, *walleye pike*, *channel catfish*, *fresh water drum* and *ling*. Paddlefishing near Glendive offers a unique sport during spring months.

The tributaries of the Yellowstone also provide the angler with good to excellent fishing. Some of the more important tributary rivers and streams are the Stillwater River, Sweetgrass River, Shields River, Boulder River, Hellroaring Creek and Slough Creek. *Cutthroat trout* are found in the headwaters of these and *rainbow* and *brown trout* in the lower stretches. *Smallmouth bass*, somewhat unique in Montana, are found in the upper portions of the Tongue River. The Yellowtail Afterbay Dam and the Big Horn River below the dam have both developed into an excellent *rainbow* and *brown trout* fishery as far downstream as the Two Leggings Dam. Big Horn Lake is providing good fishing for *walleye*, *rainbow* and *brown trout*, *yellow perch* and *crappie*.

MISSOURI RIVER

This watershed embraces the largest part of Montana and drains all the remainder of the state lying east of the Continental Divide

which is not drained by the Yellowstone.

In this watershed can undoubtedly be found the greatest diversity of fishing that exists anywhere in the United States. In its headwaters are *grayling*, *cutthroat*, *rainbow*, *brook* and *brown trout* while the lower stretches offer every advantage for warm water fishing ranging from *sturgeon*, *sauger*, *walleye* and *northern pike* to *sunfish*, *crappies*, *catfish*, *yellow perch*, *paddlefish* and *freshwater drum*.

It might be well to start at the Montana-Dakota line on this great drainage system and work upstream to develop a picture of the transition from warm water to trout fishing.

There are fine *sauger* and *walleye* fishing in the main Missouri from the North Dakota line to the Fort Peck Dam, especially during the spring migration of these species. *Fresh water drum*, *channel catfish*, *ling* and various rough species such as *carp*, *suckers*, *goldeye* and many others, are commonly caught in this section of the river.

Immediately below the Fort Peck Dam there is good *sauger* and *walleye fishing*.

Some of the more important tributaries of the Missouri River are described in the following paragraphs.

MILK RIVER

The Milk River has its confluence with the Missouri a few miles below the Fort Peck Dam. Good *walleye pike*, and *sauger* fishing is found in this river, particularly in the spring.

The creation of Fresno Dam has added another fishing area to the northern part of Montana. *Northern pike*, and *walleye* are the principal inhabitants of this impoundment.

The headwaters of the Milk River which originate in Glacier County and Canada afford some mighty fine *rainbow trout* fishing.

FORT PECK LAKE

Fort Peck Lake, being such a large body of water in a sparsely populated area, has hardly been touched so far as fishing is concerned. The available fishing facilities are limited to the Fort Peck Dam area, the areas below and above the dam, the Rock Creek area which is approached from Glendive, the Hell Creek area on the south side of the lake which is approached through Miles City and Jordan.

Incidentally, this latter area is approached through the Badlands of Montana and the Missouri River Breaks, famous in the history of the West. Many fossils have been found along this very scenic approach to Fort Peck Dam.

Another approach can be made from Lewistown in the Mosby area, coming in near the mouth of the Musselshell River. The pines area, south of the town of Fort Peck and on the north shore of the lake, is a favorite spot for many fishermen entering from Highway No. 2 on the north side of Fort Peck Lake.

Information regarding facilities available on Fort Peck Lake may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Army Engineers at Fort Peck, Montana. (Most of the developments on the lake were made by the Army Engineers for public recreational use.)

Fishing for *northern pike*, *sauger*, *crappie* and *yellow perch* is largely influenced by water conditions. *Walleye*, *rainbow trout*, *channel catfish*, *ling*, *fresh water drum* and *coho salmon* add variety to the catch. A unique species, the *paddlefish* or *Polyodon*, which weighs up to 100 pounds or more and is often over six feet in length, is found in this lake.

MUSSELSHELL RIVER

As we progress upstream, we come to the junction of the Musselshell which drains a vast territory in Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell and Petroleum Counties.

The headwaters of this stream contain *brook*, *brown trout* and *rainbow*, as do several of the large reservoirs such as Martins-

dale, Deadman's Basin and Harris.

The Musselshell River from Ryegate to its headwaters affords some excellent *brown trout* fishing in Montana and ranks as a very highly productive stream. The trout fisherman might well consider this stream one of the most important in Montana for *brown trout* fishing. *Catfish* and *sauger* fishing are both good.

JUDITH RIVER

The Judith River which converges with the Missouri quite some distance upstream from the Musselshell is also worthy of special mention as many of its tributaries are quite famous for the large specimens of *brown trout*, *brook* and *rainbow trout*.

One of the Judith's tributaries, Spring Creek, near Lewistown, is a good fishing stream and is also accessible to the angling public, an important feature of this stretch of water.

MARIAS RIVER

The Marias River was named by Lewis and Clark who thought it might be the main stem of the Missouri. The headwaters of this stream on the eastern slope of the Rockies afford good trout fishing.

One of the creeks which flows into the Marias heads on Three Waters Peak in Glacier Park, from which water flows into the Atlantic (through the Marias), into the Pacific and into Hudson Bay. This example shows how Montana's Rockies stand at the peak of the continent.

Beginning with the Two Medicine River in Glacier Park, Cut Bank Creek, Birch Creek, Willow Creek and the main Marias River all afford *rainbow trout* fishing in the area adjacent to and east of Glacier Park. The Tiber impoundment has some *rainbow*. Good *trout* and *sauger* fishing is offered in the Marias River below the dam for 4 or 5 miles.

MAIN MISSOURI RIVER

From Great Falls upstream, the main Missouri River becomes a *trout* stream worthy of special mention and from its waters are made many fine catches of *rainbow*, *brown trout* and *whitefish*.

Continuing upstream, the impoundments created by Holter Lake, Hauser Lake and Canyon Ferry Lake provide excellent boat as well as bank fishing. The river proper is also very productive.

Further upstream near Three Forks, is where fishing history is really made, for it is at this point that three major watersheds — the Jefferson, the Madison and the Gallatin Rivers converge to form the Missouri River.

GALLATIN RIVER

The Gallatin River, with its tributaries draining Gallatin, Park, and Madison Counties and also a portion of Yellowstone National Park, offers a diversity of fishing for *brown*, *rainbow*, *cutthroat*, *brook trout*, and *whitefish*.

MADISON RIVER

The Madison River, rising in Yellowstone National Park and draining much of Madison and Gallatin Counties, offers good fishing and attracts anglers from all parts of the country.

The headwaters of the Madison rise in Yellowstone National Park and carry a wealth of minerals from the Hot Springs area. *Rainbow* and *brown trout* are supreme and the river is a paradise for fly fishermen. Hebgen and Quake Lakes on the main Madison River, offer *rainbow* and *brown trout*.

Near the headwaters of the Madison River are located Cliff, Wade and Hidden Lakes that provide excellent trout fishing, either by trolling or fly casting.

In the headwaters of both the Gallatin and Madison drainages, there are lakes that afford *rainbow*, *cutthroat*, *golden trout* and *grayling* fishing, important to the backwoods packer and outdoor enthusiast wishing to explore Montana's high mountain lakes.

SUN RIVER

The Sun originates in the high mountain country of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and joins the Missouri at Great Falls. Exciting pack-in fishing for *rainbow* and *cutthroat trout* is provided by the upper forks of the Sun above Gibson Dam.

The lower reaches of the Sun River, down to the town of Vaughn, provides excellent *brown trout* and *rainbow* fishing.

SMITH RIVER

Somewhat inaccessible over much of its length, the Smith River provides high quality float fishing in late spring and early summer. Access is gained at the fishing access site near Fort Logan, northwest of the town of White Sulphur Springs. As a rule, the water conditions are right in the last part of June. During late July and August it is often too shallow for floating. High, rugged limestone cliffs, Indian paintings and caves add to the enjoyment of excellent *rainbow* and *brown trout* fishing. *Mountain whitefish* are also present in the Smith in good numbers.

Below the mouth of Hound Creek, access to the Smith may be gained through private land.

JEFFERSON RIVER

The Jefferson River, which is the third of the three forks of the Missouri, is formed by the junction of the Big Hole and the Beaverhead Rivers. They are well supplied with *brown* and *rainbow trout*.

This is a popular drainage for fishermen of the southwestern section of the state of Montana and the fishermen coming from

neighboring states west of the divide.

In the upper regions of the Jefferson drainage is found splendid *brook trout* fishing. *Cutthroat trout* are abundant in some of the upper watersheds in this area. This river also provides good fishing for *rainbow* and *brown trout*, and *mountain whitefish*.

THE BIG HOLE RIVER

The Big Hole River in southwestern Montana is very famous for its *brown trout* and *rainbow trout* fishing, and its upper watersheds afford *grayling* and *brook trout* fishing. Clark Canyon Reservoir offers good *rainbow* fishing. During the winter it is a favorite spot for *burbot* (ling).

It may be said that the Beaverhead and the Big Hole Rivers will meet the expectations of any trout fisherman, fishing with either *spinning equipment* or *dry fly gear*.

In this drainage there are many high mountain lakes that may be explored for their fishing and camping by those who wish to go into some of the back country.

CLARK FORK OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

So far only the waters on the eastern slope of the Rockies have been covered. Let's cross the Divide and drop down into the headwaters of the Clark Fork of the Columbia River which has its origin in Silver Bow, Powell and Granite Counties.

The Clark Fork and practically all of its tributaries in these counties afford very good *brook trout* and *cutthroat fishing*, while *rainbow* may be found further downstream. *Brown trout* are also to be found on the western slope. The Little Blackfoot which flows through Powell County is an outstanding example of a *brown trout* stream.

GEORGETOWN LAKE

Of all the headwaters of the Clark Fork drainage, Georgetown

Lake may be considered the best lake fishing that is accessible by motor traffic.

The Department of Fish and Game has maintained a good supply of *rainbow trout* and *kokanee salmon* by stocking. The lake itself is in a very beautiful setting of mountains and timberlands and is an ideal location for fishing and outings. Like all easily accessible and fish-producing lakes, Georgetown attracts large crowds during the summer.

FLINT CREEK—ROCK CREEK

Flint Creek, the outlet of Georgetown Lake, is a part of the headwaters of the Clark Fork River.

Rock, which flows into the Clark Fork a few miles below Bonita, is one of the finest *trout* streams on the western slope. It is mainly a *rainbow* and *cutthroat* stream. *Rainbow* and *brown trout* are found in the lower stretches and *cutthroat* in its headwaters.

BIG BLACKFOOT RIVER

As the Clark Fork passes through the town of Bonner, it is joined by the Big Blackfoot River which drains much of Powell, Lewis and Clark and Missoula Counties with its headwaters in the famous Clearwater Lakes region.

The Big Blackfoot, like many of the streams on the western slope, is not drained by a large number of irrigation diversions and is one of the outstanding *trout* streams in that region. This stream, like Rock Creek, produces principally *rainbow*, *cutthroat* and *brown trout*.

Near Missoula, the Big Blackfoot River joins the Clark Fork of the Columbia and drains a large area east and north on the west side of the Continental Divide. This drainage area affords *rainbow*, *cutthroat* and *brown trout* fishing in the entire area.

Joining the Big Blackfoot River is the Clearwater River which drains the Clearwater chain of lakes. The headwater lakes (Clearwater, Summit, Rainy, Alva and Inez) have *cutthroat trout*.

Sockeye salmon have been introduced into several of the Clearwater Lakes.

In addition to the *brook trout*, the lakes also have another member of the char family — *Dolly Varden* which is sometimes called *bull trout*. The area is most scenic and is well worthwhile for the traveling angler to explore and enjoy.

The Blackfoot River from Lincoln to Bonner is a valuable recreational area which affords excellent float trips. Float trip maps are available for the Clark Fork, Big Blackfoot and Bitterroot Rivers at the Fish and Game Headquarters in Missoula, Montana.

The Clearwater chain of lakes and all of the area of the Clearwater drainage north and south of the Blackfoot River running east and west comprises a huge area of recreational possibilities with key passes through and into the upper South Fork of the Flathead and the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. Dude ranches and guides are available in this area at all times of the year.

BITTERROOT RIVER

A few miles below the city of Missoula, the Bitterroot River contributes its water to the Clark Fork of the Columbia. Fishing possibilities in this area are almost unlimited. Practically all of Ravalli County lies in the Bitterroot drainage, and at its headwaters may be found many beautiful sub-Alpine lakes which provide predominantly *cutthroat trout* fishing.

Rainbow, brook and brown trout are the principal inhabitants of the Bitterroot River. During the winter months, *whitefishing* is a very popular sport.

LOWER FLATHEAD RIVER

Not far from the town of Paradise, the Clark Fork of the Columbia is joined by the Flathead River. The Flathead River below Flathead Lake is a large meandering stream and catches of *cutthroat*, *Dolly Varden*, *brown trout* and *rainbow trout* can be made in this area. It, too, is a stream well suited for boat trips.

FLATHEAD LAKE

From Flathead Lake upstream, including all of the tributaries and connected lakes of this vast drainage system, the utmost in fishing and recreation pleasure may be expected.

Cutthroat, *Dolly Varden*, *mackinaw* and *kokanee* are the most sought game fish found in this lake.

However, *bass* fishing enthusiasts may find a number of protected bays and side sloughs where specimens ranging up to five and six pounds are not at all uncommon.

Perch fishing is popular in Polson Bay during the late summer months and through the winter. While some specimens are not as large as those caught in the warmer waters in the eastern part of the state, the meat is of a very high quality.

Within the waters of Flathead Lake are found the *Rocky Mountain* and *Lake Superior whitefish* with many of these specimens averaging two to three pounds.

One of the highlights of the Flathead Lake fishing comes during the fall of the year when the inland water *sockeye salmon* (also called *kokanee*), having completed their four-year cycle of growth, reach maturity and congregate on the many gravel-rimmed shores of the lake to spawn. It is at this time that hundreds of fishermen break out snagging equipment.

UPPER FLATHEAD RIVER

Flathead River above Flathead Lake is divided into three main

tributaries—the North Fork, the Middle Fork and the South Fork. Fishing in all of these forks is indeed worthy of special mention and consists principally of *cutthroat*, *Dolly Varden* and *mountain whitefish*. During the fall, large concentrations of *kokanee* ascend the river and are available to snaggers.

In this river system are many remote and primitive areas including the famous Bob Marshall Wilderness, accessible only by trail. To those who wish to sacrifice the comfort and ease of riding on the main highways and hit the back trails on foot or horseback will come the rich reward of hard-fighting *trout*.

Over half of the Glacier Park area is drained by tributaries of the Flathead. In this area are many lakes which afford fine cutthroat, rainbow and kokanee fishing.

Whitefish Lake, located on the Whitefish River, is most famous for its large *mackinaw trout* and good catches are constantly made from this body of water. In addition, the creels may contain *cutthroat*, *Dolly Varden* and *kokanee*.

SWAN RIVER

The Swan River drainage is about 60 miles long and is comprised of many miles of excellent *cutthroat*, *rainbow*, *brook trout*, and *Dolly Varden* fishing in the main river and its tributaries. On the headwaters of the Swan River are Holland and Lindberg Lakes. There is a through highway system from Bigfork, Montana, at the confluence of the Swan Range and the Mission Range, through the Clearwater drainage to the Big Blackfoot River. This makes an excellent large fishing area comprised of both lake and stream fishing.

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER

From the mouth of the Flathead River, the Clark Fork River winds down through canyons and forms Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs on the boundary between Montana and Idaho.

These reservoirs can be reached easily and access is available from the highway for boat fishing. The lakes contain *rainbow trout* and *cutthroat trout*.

KOOTENAI RIVER

The Kootenai River, situated in the very northwest corner of Montana entirely within Lincoln County, rises in Canada. It flows into Montana and through Idaho, then back into Canada, through the Kootenai Lakes and thence into the Columbia River.

This region possesses a number of outstanding streams such as the Fisher River, Tobacco River, Yaak River and many smaller tributaries in addition to a large number of mountain lakes. all of these abound with trout of either *cutthroat*, *brook* or *rainbow* variety.

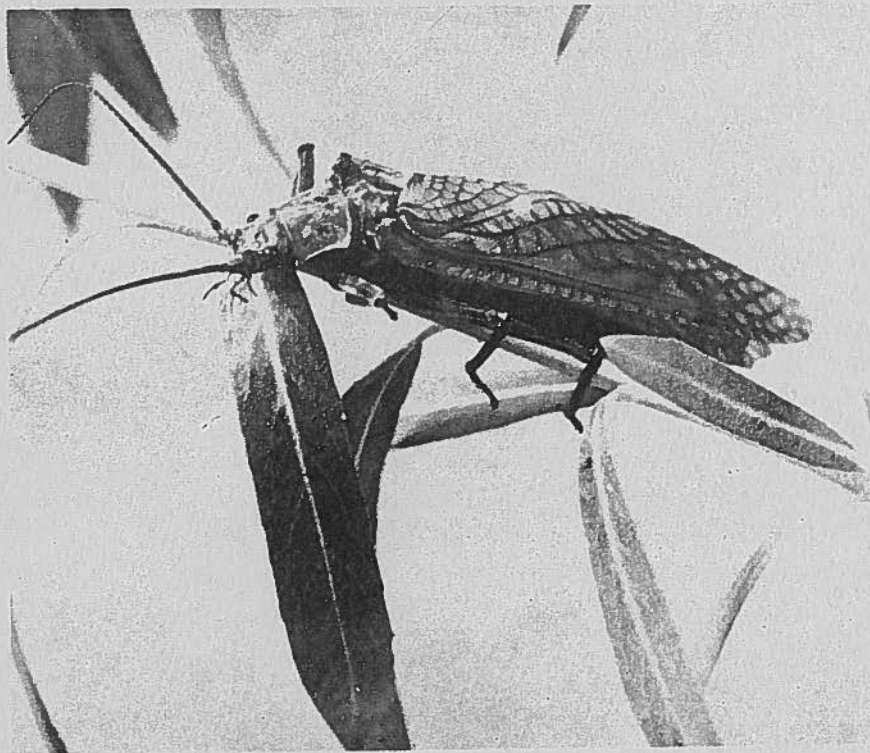
The main Kootenai River offers *cutthroat* and *Dolly Varden* angling, and the only *sturgeon* fishing in northwestern Montana. Lake Koocanusa offers rainbow and cutthroat.

LAKE FISHING IN EASTERN MONTANA

Stock water reservoirs and lakes ranging from five to five hundred acres were created as catch basins for snow and rain water runoff. On the prairies of eastern Montana, throughout both the Missouri and Yellowstone River drainage, are many of these reservoirs.

Many isolated waters of the prairie lands provide excellent *rainbow* fishing while others offer *bass*, *bluegill*, *crappies*, *walleye*, *northern pike*, and *perch*.

Anyone wishing to roam over the historic prairie lands where the buffalo and antelope formerly were the only inhabitants will come upon small lakes with fishing for both warm and cold water species.



Near the end of its life cycle, a recently emerged salmon fly waits for its wings to dry and harden.